local population through various water supply schemes.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Regular pumping is being done from Dharmaband mine. It is regular practice for sparing some quantity of the water pumped out from the mine for use of local population as and when requests from district administration are received.

Production of Coke of BCCL

2132. **SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:** Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the production of coke of BCCL (BH and BP, separately) during the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) what has been the real impact of cheap imports of coke of Chinese origin on it's production of BH and BP coke, lifting of it's coking coal by domestic coke manufacturers and on it's stocks and prices of both coking coal and coke; and

(c) what is the present strength of workers and other staff in BCCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The production of B.P. and B.H. Coke in BCCL during the year 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given below:—

(Fig. in '000 tonnes)

Year	B.P.	B.H.	Total
1995-96	142.60	52.00	194.60
1996-97	158.20	57.30	215.50
1997-98	123.20	44.70	168.00

(b) The demand for coke produced by BCCL had declined and as a result the company is forced to cut down its production to avoid accumulation of heavy stock. The average monthly booking of coal by cokery units who are genuine buyer of coal for manufacture of hard coke in and around Dhanbad had also gone down. The total stock of coke (BP and BH) as on 31.3.98 was 52,000 tonnes as against 14,400 tonnes as on 31.3.96.

The company is not able to fix a remunerative price because of poor demand.

(c) As on 1.5.98, the strength of workers and staff in BCCL is 1,31,959 and that of executive is 3,134.

Amendment in the MMRD Act, 1957

2133. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 is to be amended; and

(b) if so, what are the objectives to be achieved by this amendment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (a) of the question.

Development of coal mines under Mahanadi Coalfields Limited

2134. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the development of coal mines under Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) during the Eighth Plan;

(b) the various development measures adopted in these coalfields during that plan period;

(c) the funds earmarked therefor in Ninth Plan; and

(d) the development measures adopted for the plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) During the 8th Five Year Plan, the amount spent on the development of coal mines under Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) was Rs. 866.90 crores.